



Advance Directives for MAID and the Requirement of Intolerable Suffering

ICEL2: Halifax

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While we still can: The case for advance directives

A proposed law on assisted death will not allow patients to choose death while they remain able. Should it?

Shannon Proudfoot

June 2, 2016



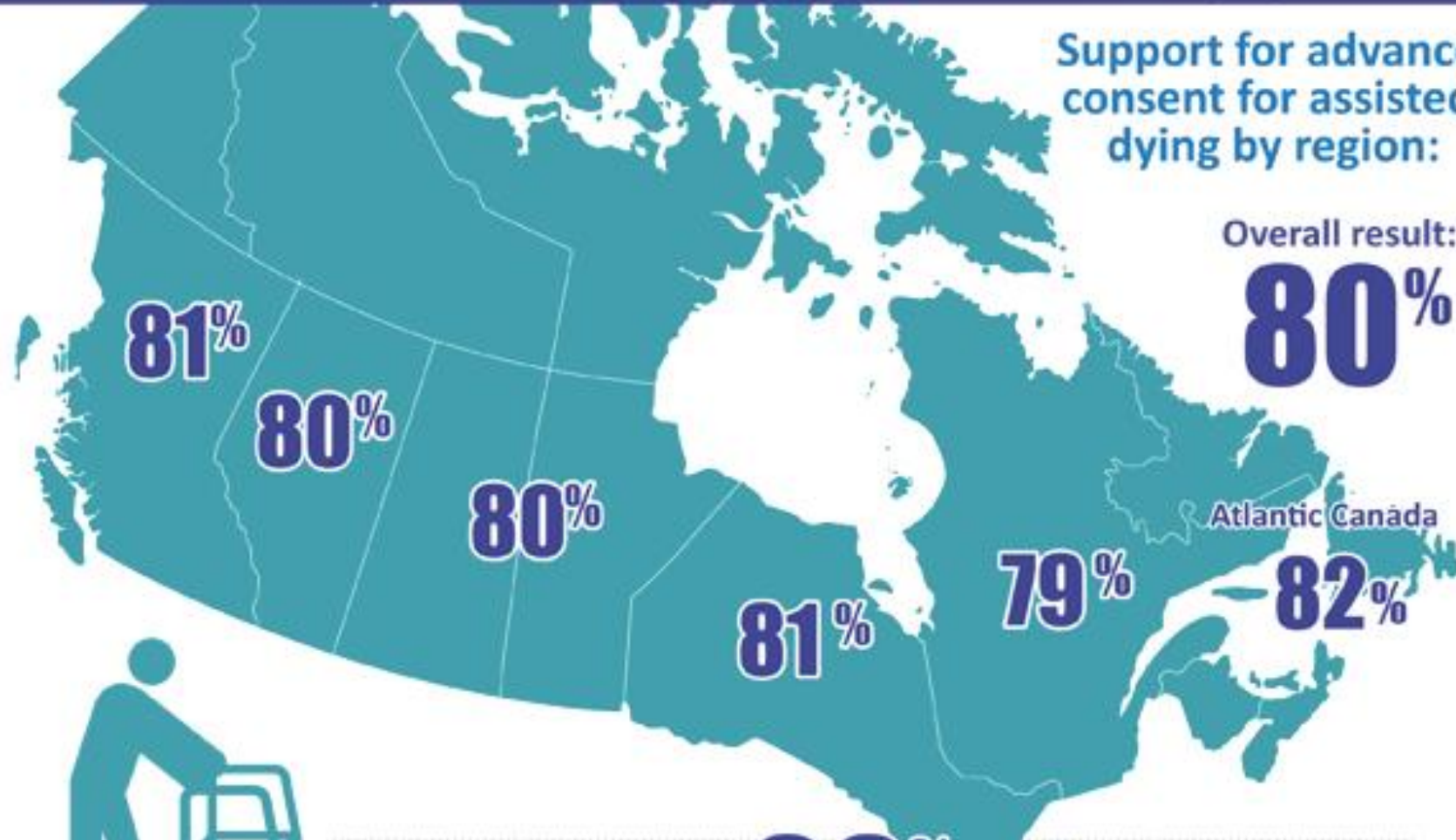
80% of Canadians

say patients with a serious illness should be able to make advance requests for physician assisted dying.*

Support for advance consent for assisted dying by region:

Overall result:

80%



The **disability community** is

88%

in support of allowing advance consent for assisted dying



CMA poll finds rising support for medically assisted death

ANDRÉ PICARD - PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTER

QUEBEC CITY — The Globe and Mail

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A straw poll conducted on Wednesday at the Canadian Medical Association annual meeting found that 83 per cent of delegates supported allowing “advance directives” – meaning, for example, that people with dementia could, while they are still competent, decide they want an assisted death at a later time.

Criminal Code

Eligibility for medical assistance in dying

241.2 (1) A person may receive medical assistance in dying only if they meet all of the following criteria:...

(c) they have a grievous and irremediable medical condition; ...

Grievous and irremediable medical condition

(2) A person has a grievous and irremediable medical condition only if they meet all of the following criteria:

...

(c) that illness, disease or disability or that state of decline causes them enduring physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable to them and that cannot be relieved under conditions that they consider acceptable; ...

Two types of AD

1. If I can no longer bathe myself, I would like medical assistance in dying
2. If I am suffering due to confusion brought about by dementia, I would like medical assistance in dying.

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- ▶ “the justification for the Constitutional right to assisted dying is the alleviation of suffering.” (Juliet Guichon, at para 23)

Thanks!

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